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RAAB: I AM NOT AN EAST-WEST LETTER-CARRIER; "BLOCK OF THE BLOCKLESS" DISAVOWED

Federal Chancellor Julius Raab has declared that it is not his aim to function as "letter-carrier between Bonn, Washington and Moscow." In connection with his recent meeting with the German Chancellor Dr. Konrad Adenauer in Cologne, he has termed as unfounded all rumors that he planned to take a more active part in East-West discussions.

In a radio address, Raab pointed out that Adenauer had first-rate communication with the White House and no need for handing him a letter which he could only deliver to Washington after a two-and-a-half-month delay.

The same applies to his trip to Moscow. "The rapid developments and frequent changes in the field of foreign

THE CHANCELLOR'S TRIP TO MOSCOW

The Soviet Ambassador has called on Federal Chancellor Raab and transmitted to him the Soviet Government's proposal for the visit of an Austrian government delegation to Moscow in July or August. The Chancellor agreed to this suggestion and has proposed to fix the date of the visit for the week of July 13th to 20th. Vice-Chancellor Pittermann, Foreign Minister Figl and State Secretary Kreisky will be members of the Austrian delegation. (As reported in our issue of February 22, the Chancellor will make a trip to Washington in mid-May; on that occasion, he will be accompanied by his personal staff.)

ASIAN TRIP OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On his current trip through Asia Foreign Minister Leopold Figl discussed matters of mutual interest with Indian Prime Minister Nehru; he also called on President Rajendra Prasad and Vice President Radhakrishnan. Nehru gave a reception in his honor attended by diplomats and political leaders.

policy would tend to make obsolete any propositions and ideas which I would carry with me from Bonn. I have no desire to function as a belated letter-carrier."

Raab declared that state visits of course served the comprehensive exchange of ideas concerning the world situation, and that he would gladly discuss his concepts with the statesmen he would visit. "But I don't deem it indispensable that I be available for the transmission of messages or the execution of missions. All those concerned have sufficient ways and means to establish direct contact."

Finally, Raab discounted rumors which try to interpret

(Continued on page 2)

KREISKY REVIEWS FOREIGN POLICY; DISCUSSES DISARMAMENT, "ATOM-FREE" ZONES

State Secretary Kreisky spoke at the main auditorium of Vienna University on "foreign policy in the age of nuclear and space weapons."

Limited disarmament could be acceptable to the West only if the Eastern Block were ready to make concessions with regard to conventional weapons," said the Secretary.

"The main problem of world politics can be reduced to the following formula: the equilibrium of armaments prevents a large-scale war. The prerequisite of coexistence is that such a war should be avoided. That is, there is true coexistence only if there is an equilibrium in armaments.

"The idea that a simple dissolution of the two power blocks, the NATO and the Eastern Block, would constitute a substantial contribution to disarmament is either extremely naive or a simplification motivated by propaganda needs.

"The development of military technology has provoked the Eden, Gaitskill and Rapacki plans, each of which aims at separating the main powers by a zone. Basically, this is an attempt to offset the shrunken geographic distances by

(Continued on page 2)

1957 BALANCE OF PAYMENTS TOPS 1956 RESULTS BY 155%

In 1957, the Austrian balance of payments has closed with a surplus of 910 million schillings, topping the 1956 surplus of about 356 million, and contrasting impressively the 1955 deficit. (26 schillings to the dollar; Ed.)

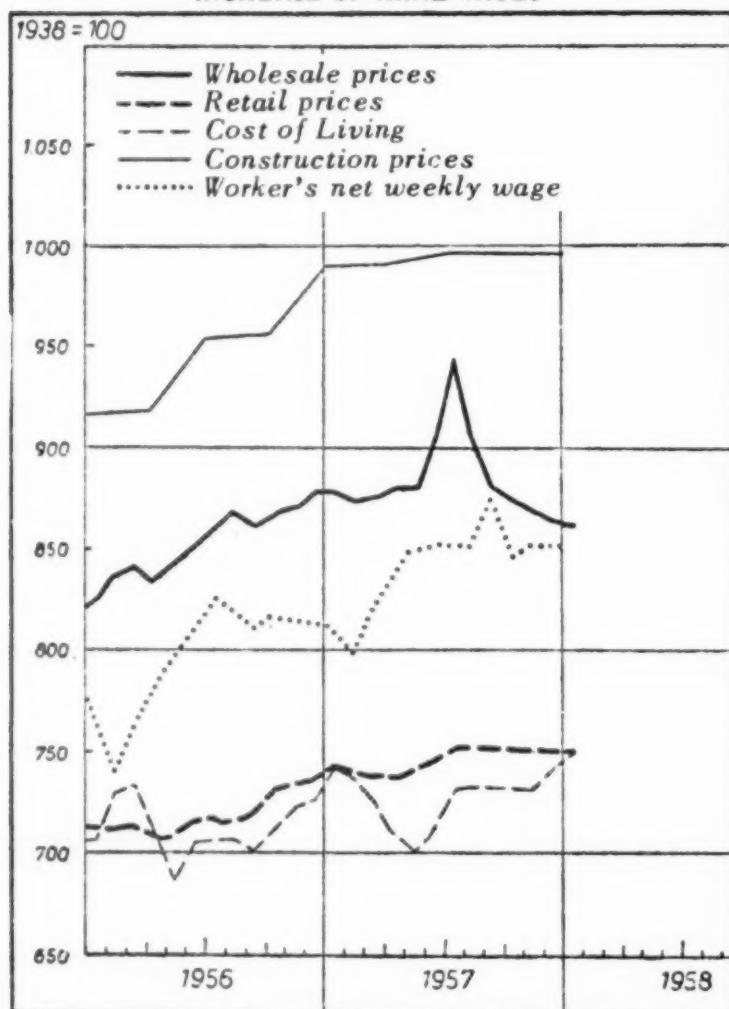
While the trade balance showed a deficit of 2,791 million schillings, with imports of 29,377 and exports (including compensatory deliveries to the Soviet Union) of 26,546 million schillings, the services balance closed with a surplus of 3,594 million schillings. Receipts amounted to 6,599, expenditures to 3,005 million schillings. The tourist trade with 3,801 million schillings represented the most important item in the services balance. Adding to the surplus of 803 million schillings in the goods-services balance was a surplus of 1,211 million in the capital balance. Unpaid deliveries to the Soviet Union amounted to 1,104 million schillings which are to be deducted in the final account.

In combination with the 1957 balance of payments of 910 million schillings, the National Bank's total holdings of foreign exchange and securities of 2,468 million schillings indicate further receipts from other sources amounting to 1,558 million schillings.

36,881 MORE JOBS THAN LAST YEAR

The number of persons employed on February 28th was 2,101,531; against January, this represents a reduction by 16,125; as compared to 1957, an increase of 36,881 (i.e. 1.8%). The seasonal drop in employment in February concerns mostly agriculture and the building trade. The hotel and restaurant trade has registered an increase of employment.

INCREASE OF REAL WAGES



Whereas the cost of living index has remained comparatively stable, the worker's net weekly wages have increased considerably according to the Austrian Institute for Economic Research. As a result, real wages have increased in 1957.

PRICE LEVEL STABLE

The level of prices in February was again stable. Although the wholesale goods index shows an increase of 0.1%, i.e. 861, as compared to January, the retail trade index has fallen 0.1%, i.e. 749. Wholesale prices have fallen 1.5% and retail prices have risen 1% during the last twelve months.

EXPORTS: A TURN FOR THE WORSE

Following the positive trend in foreign trade in December 1957, a considerable decrease has been manifest in January: there was a 3% decrease in exports (1727 million schillings) and a decrease of 11% in imports (2,339 million). Foreign trade has decreased also as compared to January 1957, exports 3% and imports 5%. The deficit of 612 million schil-

lings in January 1958 is the second highest since 1949 (26 schillings equal one dollar). The record deficit so far was also in January, in 1957: it was 682 million schillings. Experience of the last years has demonstrated that there is always a high excess of imports in January, which influences the whole year's trade balance.

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES START OPERATIONS NEXT MONTH

The new Austrian airways, "Austrian Airlines (AUA)," will begin its regular flights in April. There will be daily return flights from Vienna to London, Paris, Zurich, and Hamburg, three flights a week — Monday, Wednesday and Saturday — to Rome, and twice a week, Friday and Saturday, to Warsaw.



Emblem of Austrian Airlines

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Raab Statement (Continued from page 1)

the Austrian Foreign Minister's trip to Asia as an attempt to establish closer political bonds between nations which don't belong to one of the existing blocks. "We have declared repeatedly," Raab said, "that Austria will pursue a completely independent foreign policy, that we don't have the slightest intention of joining a block of neutrals, or a block of the blockless, or any other block."

Foreign Policy (Continued from page 1)

political means. A physical separation of the main powers, however, is no solution in itself.

"Instead, a system of measures aimed at reducing the general tension should be promoted. With regard to the Rapacki plan, for example, an "atom-free" zone in Europe would make sense only if the geographic limits were to be extended in all directions and if the demilitarization plans were far more inclusive. Such a zone would find its complement in the neutral countries in Europe.

"An arms embargo against the Middle East under United Nations control could be considered another positive step. At the same time, the efforts of the United Nations Disarmament Commission must continue.

"During the next ten years, democracy must prove its superiority as a society in order to demonstrate to the non-democratic countries the advantages of political freedom," the Secretary concluded.

SHIPPERS GET MORE OF AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN TRADE

Of the total Austrian overseas trade in 1957, 22.7% was made up of imports and 19.5%, of exports. As the overseas trade in 1937 constituted only 7.4%, the amount has been trebled in the last two decades. This means in absolute values that, whereas the total Austrian foreign trade in the past 20 years has been almost doubled, the exchanges with overseas countries have grown fivefold.

In terms of tonnage, the United States leads Austria's overseas trade with 2.57 tons. The second country is Greece with 0.23 million tons, the third country is Algeria with 0.18 million tons, and the fourth is mainland China with 0.14 million tons.

Measured quantitatively, the most important overseas trade article in 1956 was coal (1.65 million tons). Then followed iron, manganese ore, chromium ore, fertilizers with 0.35 million tons; pig iron, salt products with 0.32 million tons; wheat with 0.26 million tons; wood with 0.23 million tons; paper and pulp with 0.15 million tons. The high value finished products, such as machinery, cars, and other equipment held, quantitatively, the lowest rank, only 0.03 million tons.

The following table shows the ports through which Austria's overseas trade has been shipped:

Port	1956	1957
	(In Tons)	
Trieste, Italy	2,574,105	2,532,619
Hamburg, W. Germany	687,332	730,678
Bremen, W. Germany	864,823	734,243
Rijeka, Yugoslavia	223,421	264,717
Rotterdam, Netherlands	32,959	*
Luebeck, W. Germany	29,401	131,170
Genoa, Italy	14,125	*
Antwerp, Belgium	21,246	*
Amsterdam, Netherlands	16,880	*

*) Data not yet available.

1957 STATISTICS SHOW SLIGHT DECREASE IN DANUBE NAVIGATION

Shipments of goods in 1957 were 20,479 tons less than in 1956, i.e., 2,688,042 tons. Both internal Austrian traffic and the traffic to and from foreign countries was affected; however, traffic from foreign countries has increased both up and downstream. This was true particularly in the case of coal from Germany (870,592 tons in 1957 as against 799,294 tons in 1956) and mineral oil products from the Balkans (85,080 tons in 1957, 40,881 tons in 1956). Oil shipments to the west, however, decreased considerably (567,197 tons in 1957, 727,889 tons in 1956); the same is true for pig iron (56,009 tons in 1957, 121,460 tons in 1956).

In January 1958, 201,691 tons of goods were transported on the Danube, an increase of 8.8% over the same period last year. The reason for the increase is to be sought primarily in heavier shipments of coal and mineral oil products. Although in absolute values the amounts are small, the most important increases have been in the traffic with the South-East, from

611 to 2,048 tons. The volume of shipments between Regensburg and Linz in both directions and Regensburg and Vienna has been considerably increased

DELIVERIES TO THE SOVIET UNION

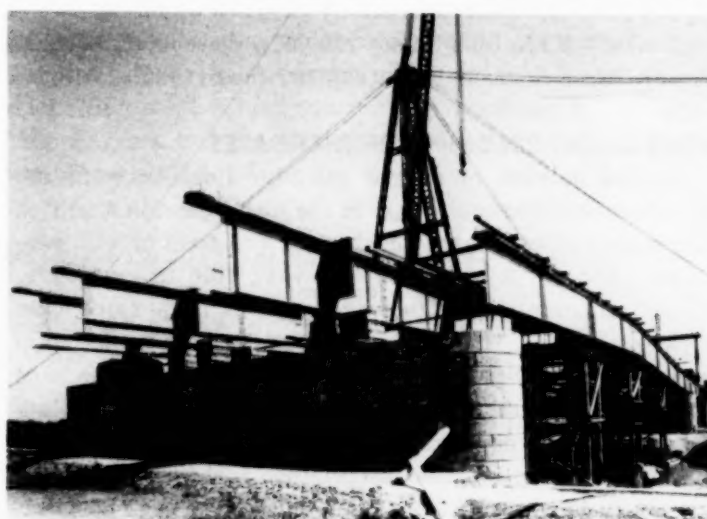
The Austrian government commission on compensatory deliveries to the USSR approved recent Soviet orders of approximately 4.2 million dollars for the fourth annual term under State Treaty provisions (July 27, 1958 to July 26, 1959). Approved orders include trucks, rolling mill equipment, chemical apparatus, and paper-manufacturing and woodworking machinery. The total of orders has reached a value of about 8.3 million dollars.

Up to February 20, 1958, deliveries to the Soviet Union within schedule amounted to 13.8 million dollars for the third annual period and to approximately 5,000 dollars for the fourth. At that time, shipments of crude oil in compensation for the transfer of the Lower Austrian oil fields and installations reached a volume of 564,159.5 tons for the third annual term.

Deliveries to the Soviet Union during 1957, under the agreement of compensation for the transfer of the formerly Soviet-administered USIA enterprises (German assets), included goods for 23.4 million dollars. The 1956 figure was 31.2 million dollars. Deliveries of crude oil in 1957 amounted to 1,123,822 tons.

FEDERAL LOAN FOR THE SALZBURG-VIENNA THRUWAY

A federal loan to be floated with a nominal value of 600 million schillings (one dollar equals 26 schillings) will help



Bridge construction on the superhighway Vienna-Salzburg.

finance diverse projects for which the special budget has been created.

About half of this amount should be used for the construction of the thruway. (550 million schillings of the special budget have already been earmarked for this purpose.) The rest will be used for postal services and railways, the most important project being the electrification of the Semmering line between Gloggnitz and Muerzzuschlag. The postal administration will improve upon its automotive facilities.

It is hoped that 120 to 130 km of the Vienna-Salzburg

Thruway. will be opened for traffic by the end of this year (1 mile equals 1.62 km). This represents about 40% of the total mileage.

COMMERCIAL CREDITS INCREASE

In January, commercial credits have increased by 478 million schillings (26 schillings to the dollar) to a total of 29,087 million. At the same time, reconstruction credits have decreased by 210 million schillings to 7,095 million. Thus, the total of outstanding credits has increased by 268 to 36,182 million schillings. Installment credits, during the fourth quarter of 1957, went up by 102 million schillings to 1,199 million. Purchases of consumer goods increased during Christmas time—and credits for machines went up from 184 million schillings to 221 million and those for automobiles from 674 to 696 million schillings.

THE OUTPUT OF AUSTRIAN REFINERIES

The Austrian refineries produced 2,038,308 tons of crude oil in 1957 and 147,896 tons of heavy machine oil (1956: 2,002,853 tons of crude oil and 133,083 tons of fuel oil). From the total of 2,186,204 tons of crude oil (1956: 2,135,336 tons) were produced: 241,337 tons of gasoline (1956: 210,609 tons), 10,618 tons of other gasoline products (1956: 8,739 tons), 133,804 tons of kerosene (1956: 140,071 tons), 546,907 tons of gas-oil (1956: 531,242 tons), 902,628 tons of fuel oil (1956: 948,411), 66,440 tons of lubricating oil (1956: 59,629 tons of bitumen (1956: 34,284 tons), and 5,959 tons of other products.

Refinery losses in 1957 amounted to 74,323 tons (1956: 69,568). Subtracting the internal consumption of the refineries, which was 113,158 tons (1956: 113,707), the overall Austrian refinery output amounted to 1,850,827 tons (1956: 1,818,978 tons).

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION INCREASES

As the network of natural gas pipe lines is being enlarged, consumption increases. In the past year 758.8 million cubic meters (1 cu. meter equals 35.4 cu. feet) of gas were produced and 542.6 million cu. m. were sold to customers. Although consumption has increased only by 1.8%, sales have increased by 3%. This was due primarily to the needs of town-gas plants with 179.4 million cu. m. and the needs of electric power plants with 294.5 million cu. m. On the other hand industry has consumed 43.3 million cu. m. less than in 1956. It has however been ascertained that industrial consumption in November - 5.1 million cu. m. and in December - 7 million cu. m. was substantially higher than the corresponding months of 1956, i.e. 4.5 and 5 million cu. m. respectively. The trend toward a rapid increase in natural gas consumption in the last months is largely due to the development of a pipe line system west and south of Vienna where numerous industrial plants have already been connected to it.

SEVEN POWER PLANTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Seven big power projects are currently under construction in Austria; the increase of electric energy output in 1958 is expected to be 1 billion KWH. Should the increase in demand remain on the average European level of 7%, Austria will achieve an equilibrium in power production in 1959.

MORE MACHINERY PRODUCED AND EXPORTED

Austrian industry succeeded in the past year in reaching a new production high, with a total output of 279,000 tons valued at 5,984 billion schillings (one dollar equals 26 schillings). The increase as compared to 1956 is 10%. The mechanical industry's output in 1956 was 256,000 tons valued at 5,299 billion schillings. There was a 30% increase in exports as compared to 1956. Austrian machines valued at 2,155 billion schillings have been put on the world market (96,500 tons as against 64,900 tons at 1,508 billion schillings in 1956).

The percentage of the output exported was 23% in 1955, climbed to 28% in 1956 and surpassed one third of the total, 36% by 1957. But the turnover of Austrian machines increased also in the inland trade in 1957. The increase of production by 685 million schillings is paralleled by an increase of exports of 647 million schillings. In 1957 the inland turnover was 38 million schillings higher than in 1956.

SEAMLESS PIPES

Schoeller-Bleckmann Steel will resume production of seamless pipes for the first time after the war. The punching and extrusion presses have already been commissioned and the remaining installations will be delivered shortly. More than half of the 130 million schillings (one dollar equals 26 schillings) which have to be invested into the seamless pipe works will be financed by the company itself, the remainder will be covered by an OEEC-credit which has been authorized for the second half of 1958.

It is expected that the new plant, which will initially work on two shifts and have a capacity of 30,000 tons of pipe, will start production by the end of 1959.

MINES INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

The Austrian mining industries considerably increased their production in the course of 1957. Productivity was increased 5%, the labor force being substantially unchanged (or even reduced, as in lead and tin mining). Production increases have been realized in all sectors, ranging from 1% in the salt mines to 53% in iron mica.

The only important difficulties were experienced with colored metallic ores; the situation is critical due to the sinking prices on the world market, but even here the 1957 production was higher than in 1956.

Iron ore output has increased by 3.5 million tons, that is 7.3% due to the boom in the steel and iron industries. There has been a regular increase in this field for years.

Previous investments are also bearing fruit in the Austrian salt mines and production increases continually.

AUSTRIAN FARMERS USE MORE ELECTRICITY

Between 1950 and 1956 Austrian farmers have more than doubled their consumption of electricity: in 1956, they used 215 million KWH, compared with 105 million KWH in 1949 by the end of 1956, 88,000 of 636,000 agricultural enterprises in Austria were operated without electric current. As more and more of them are expected to convert to electricity, consumption of electric current is estimated to rise to about 370 million KWH by 1960.

1270 MILLION KWH OUTPUT PLANNED FOR YBBS-PERSENBEUG

The Ybbs-Persenbeug project is the fourth-largest of the Danube area. (595 miles of Austrian territory are traversed by the Danube, with a drop of about 500 feet.) Four power plants are planned along this stretch, which would utilize eighty percent of the hydroelectric potential. The Ybbs-Persenbeug plant is to have an annual output of 1270 million kilowatt hours, 43% of which will be produced during the winter. The plant, until the summer of 1957, involved a total cost of 2,370,000,000 schillings (about 91,160,000 dollars).

AGRICULTURAL SURPLUS WORRIES AUSTRIAN ECONOMISTS

Official recommendations for structural changes in Austria's agricultural production were recently discussed at a Vienna press conference. An especially promising possibility is the intensified production of high-quality wheat and corn for cattle consumption — two categories still requiring considerable imports at the present time. In the case of corn, for instance, there were substantial imports during the past year.

Austrian agricultural circles are especially worried about the butter and potato surplus, which causes considerable price drops. As a means to combat the potato overproduction, it is planned to hike the potato flake production, through a system of subsidies. Practically all field products have reached the level of demand. In fact, even ordinary bread wheat is likely to hit market difficulties in 1958. On the other hand, Austria still covers part of her high quality wheat requirements through regular imports. Current plans are therefore geared to an intensification of the seed program, confining seed supplied for 1958 to farmers obligating themselves to cultivate high-quality wheat.

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may be quoted freely

Source need not be given

AUSTRIA GETS CREDIT TO BUY COTTON IN THE U.S.

A 12 million dollar credit to Austria to finance the purchase of cotton in the United States has been announced by Samuel C. Waugh, President of the Export-Import Bank of Washington.

The loan is repayable fifteen months from date of drafts and the credit will be available for a period of one year. The Austrian National Bank has guaranteed availability of dollars required for repayment.

Austrian spinners are expected to buy, through the borrowing banks, long-staple, high-grade U.S. cotton. This is the fourth loan made by Eximbank for the purpose of financing the purchase of United States cotton by Austrian spinners.

Export-Import Bank loaned Austria 6 million dollars in

1952 for the export purchases of surplus U.S. cotton; this loan has been repaid in full. The Bank loaned another 6 million dollars in 1955 to the three government-owned Austrian banks; this is being repaid on schedule. In 1957 the Bank loaned 8 million dollars to the three government-owned Austrian Banks for the purchase of U.S. cotton and this credit has been practically used.

AUSTRIAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY EXPORTS

On the import side, Austria's share in the foreign trade in chemical products of OEEC-countries amounted to 65 million dollars, or 3.4 per cent, in 1956; in exports, to about 36 million dollars or 1.25 per cent. Compared to 1955, the chemical products exported by Austria have risen by 30 per cent and the goods imported by 20 per cent. (Chemical products constitute about 5 per cent of the total export volume of Austria.

This relatively large share of chemical products in the Austrian foreign trade is to be ascribed to the considerable exports of commercial fertilizer by Stickstoff-Linz, Austria's largest chemical plant. Other chemical exports are of lesser importance.

AUSTRIAN THEATER CONSTRUCTION HAS A MARKET ABROAD

The Wagner-Biro Corporation which has supplied all the stage installations of the Vienna Burgtheater and the new Salzburg Festival House has been engaged on a number of similar projects in the Middle and Far East. Thanks to a reputation gained in the construction of Austrian theaters, the Austrian steel industry is being increasingly called upon to supply parts for roof structures, auditoriums etc., in many parts of the world.

AUSTRIAN CO-OPS SALES EXCEED TWO BILLION

The Austrian consumers cooperatives have made total sales in the amount of over two billion schillings in 1957, an increase of 124.8 million (or 6.36%) over the 1956 sales level. (There are 26 schillings to the dollar; Ed.).

"PEZ" DROPS POPULAR HERE

In exports of Austrian foodstuffs the share of candy was 64.5% (1957). 82.22% of this was made up by "Pez" refreshment drops, which were exported to over 40 countries; more than a hundred million packages were sold in the USA; over 20 million different "Pez" flip-top dispensers were also sold here.

IN AUSTRIA, TOO: BETTER WRAPPINGS BOOST TRADE

The Trade Ministry, in co-operation with the Austrian Packaging Institute, have inaugurated a campaign to promote better packages in Austria. Prizes will be given for the best production and use of packaging.

NEW 25-SCHILLING COINS

On April 14 new 25-schilling coins will be issued in Austria. They will commemorate the centenary of the scholar and inventor Auer von Welsbach. The coin's front side shows Auer's portrait and the dates 1858-1958 as well as 1929, the year of his death. On the reverse side, the coats of arms of the nine Austrian federal states appear exactly as on the silver coins previously issued.

The new coins will be circulated by the Austrian National Bank and are legal tender.

OIL EXECUTIVES TO MEET IN VIENNA IN PREPARATION FOR NEW YORK EVENT

At the recent meeting of the permanent council of the World Oil Industry in Amsterdam, it was decided that the next meeting of the organization will be held in Vienna in the middle of June.

The main topic of the Vienna meeting will concern the preparatory work for the 5th World Oil Congress, which is to take place in New York from May 31st to June 5th, 1959. Besides numerous papers concerning technical problems of the oil industry, new methods for oil exploration and processing, use of nuclear energy in the mineral industry, etc., there will also be an exhibit of the oil economy as a whole which will play an important part at that Congress.

WELDING EXPERTS MEET IN VIENNA

The II Congress of the International Welding Institute will take place in Vienna between June 29th and July 6th 1958. The program of the various commissions, in which experts from 25 countries will participate, will be concerned with modern welding techniques and applications thereof.

VIENNA KINDERGARTEN AT BRUSSELS WORLD FAIR

As compared to other nations' efforts Austria does not expect to have a sensational exhibit at the Brussels World Fair; one of its contributions, however, will probably be among the most charming; an international kindergarten, now being constructed by the city of Vienna on the premises of the Austrian pavilion. The kindergarten will be open for the duration of the world fair, and will be open to the children of world fair employees as well as to children of visitors. Three nurses from Vienna — all multilingual, of course — will take charge.

The Brussels Fair kindergarten will be organized the same way as similar modern establishments run by the city of Vienna; among other attractions, it has a fashion note all its own: mothers with their children will first go to the dressing room, where every child has a locker; the locker space is designated by a small design — an animal or a flower. The child is dressed in a play apron repeating the same pattern. (Aprons for both children and nurses were designed by the Vienna fashion school.) All items of clothing provided by the kindergarten — swimming suits, towels, etc. — bear the same individual design.

"SOS" CHILDREN'S VILLAGES CONTINUE TO EXPAND

The building program for Austria's "SOS" Children's Villages continues unabated during 1958. An average of two new buildings a month is provided for the current year. Fifty-six buildings, housing about 600 orphans, were established during the eight years since the "SOS" Children's Village program got under way. But the continued expansion of the Children's projects raises the problem of finding enough qualified supervisory personnel.

SO THAT'S WHERE THE YELLOW WENT

The dresses of the hostesses who will receive visitors of the Austrian pavilion at the Brussels world fair have been shown to fashion experts in Vienna. Every hostess will get the following two sets: a sulphur-yellow dress with a platinum grey trim, a platinum grey coat, with a button-in lining, gloves, a handbag and shoes all in platinum grey. The "dress-uniform" to be worn on special occasions consists of a white gabardine dress with a gold appliqué collar and cuffs. White gloves and a white hat with gold tassels will be worn as accessories.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

1958 SALZBURG FESTIVAL?

KARAJAN INTRODUCES INTERNATIONAL NOTE

The 1958 Salzburg Festival, with Herbert Karajan as its musical director, will be international in character. For instance, the European premiere of Samuel Barber's "Vanessa" is on the program, and will be performed in English by the same ensemble as that of the New York world premiere. The play opening the Festival will be "Don Carlos," and there will be a new production and staging of "Cosi Fan Tutte," which will be sung in Italian by Italian artists. The second orchestra playing alongside the Vienna Philharmonic will be the Amsterdam Concert Gebouw ensemble. The Spanish "Marquis de Cuevas Ballet" group will give four ballet performances. (The total number of performances of the 1958 Festival will be 78.)

The program for 1958 also includes the world premiere of another modern opera, Heimo Erbse's "Julietta" (adapted from the novel "The Marquise von O." by Heinrich von Kleist). The Austrian composer has arranged the libretto himself.

The new Festival House designed by Professor Holzmeister, which is currently being constructed, may be completed for the 1960 Festival.

NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW . . .

Early this month, the advance ticket sale for the 1958 Salzburg Festival began. Although it was a very cold day, a large number of enthusiastic ticket buyers gathered around 4 a.m. at the box office, which was due to open at 11 o'clock. Six hundred tickets were sold. The major demand was for the Mozart operas "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Cosi Fan Tutte;" "Don Carlos" was also much in demand.

THE BURGTHEATER PLANS AHEAD

The Vienna Burgtheater will open its next season with three interesting premieres. The first play in September is by Reinhold Schneider, which will have its world premiere by the Burgtheater ensemble during the 1958 Bregenz Festival. The star role will be played by Ewald Balser; Josef Gielen will produce the play.

The second premiere of the Burgtheater will be the world premiere in German of Chekov's unknown play, "That Platanov." Staging will be by Leopold Lindtberg; Victor de Kowa will play the title role. Pol Quentin has discovered and arranged this piece; it was produced two years ago by Jean Villard in Paris. The German version is by Robert Schnorr.

The European premiere of Robinson Jeffers' play "The Source" is to be performed by the Burgtheater in October. O'Neill's "A Touch of the Poet" is scheduled for the first premiere of the Akademietheater in September.

O'NEILL'S "STRANGE INTERLUDE" AT VIENNA VOLKSTHEATER

Eugene O'Neill, John B. Priestly and Jean-Paul Sartre are the authors currently on the repertoire of the Vienna Volkstheater. "Strange Interlude" and "Le diable et le bon Dieu" (The devil and the good Lord) have not yet been performed in Vienna. Priestley's "Time and the Conways" is slated for a tour by the Volkstheater ensemble in the outer districts in March.

SPANISH MUSICAL IN THE VOLKSOPER

As a feature of the Vienna Festival weeks, the Vienna Volksoper is preparing the German Premiere of "Donna Francisquita," an opera by the Spanish composer Amadeo Vives. Jose Tamayo is stage-manager and the musical direction is in the hands of Odon Alonso. (Jose Tamayo is Director of the "Teatro della Zarzuela" in Madrid where "Donna Francisquita" was performed with great success.)

GRAZ SUMMER FESTIVAL OFFERS NEW OPERA

The premiere of "Kaetchen of Heilbronn," a new opera by Waldemar Bloch, will be a highlight of the 1958 Graz summer festival. There will also be performances of "Turandot," "Aida," and "Madame Butterfly" under the baton of the Italian conductor Morelli; Cimarosa's "Il Matrimonio Segreto" ("The Secret Marriage") is planned for presentation at the Eggenberg Castle.

The Graz Theater will perform, along with the traditional "Midsummer Night's Dream" in the garden of the castle, another open-air performance of Max Mell's "Christ's Succession."

AN OUTSTANDING CARINTHIAN AMATEUR GROUP

Plans for the coming summer have been announced by the Friesach Court Players ("Friesacher Burghofspiele"), a group which in recent years has acquired a reputation for being the outstanding amateur group of the German-speaking area. Plays to be performed in the medieval setting at the Petersberg during the 1958 Summer season will be Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night", as well as "Hannibal" a drama by the Austrian romanticist playwright Dietrich Grabbe.

VIENNA KOKOSCHKA EXHIBIT

The most important exhibition to date of the work of Oscar Kokoschka has been arranged between May 16th and July 13th at the Kunstlerhaus in Vienna. Around 150 paintings, 250 water-colors, drawings, and graphic works will be on display.

"SNOW-WHITE" TO PICK CHERRY BLOSSOMS

The group of Anton Aichner, founder-director of the Salzburg Marionette Theater is now on a cruise which will take it to Hong Kong and from there by air to Japan. The Salzburg marionette group is scheduled to appear in about thirty performances in four Japanese cities, including Tokyo. The repertoire will include a Japanese-language version of "Snow-White". The ensemble will open its Japanese tour with an appearance at the Osaka Cherry Blossom Festival.

AUSTRIAN TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR MUSICAL THERAPISTS

A training institute for a profession new to Austria will be opened in Vienna shortly; musical therapists will be trained in collaboration between the Vienna Academy of Music and the University Clinic for Neurology and Psychiatry. Vienna has now adopted a therapeutic method which has been in use in the USA for a considerable time and which has achieved success especially in treatment of senility.

VIENNESE PHYSICIAN PUBLISHES "ATLAS OF GASTROENTEROLOGICAL ENDOSCOPY:" DIFFICULT TECHNICAL FEAT ACCOMPLISHED

A very interesting document was shown to the scientific staff reporters of the Vienna newspapers at a recent press conference: an Atlas of Gastroenterological Endoscopy — a series of pictures of the interior of the stomach, depicting the pathological changes wrought by disease. The work is unique in that it contains more than 300 handpainted pictures, made according to the findings of a gastroscope.

Professor Reinhold Boller of the Vienna University Clinic had decided 16 years ago to reproduce pictures of changes of the stomach as seen by the gastroscope and compile an atlas-collection of them. He intended this work to be a diagnostic aid for the early identification of malignant diseases and particularly for their differentiation from non-malignant states. Neither the professor nor the publishers, Urban and Schwarzenberg (Vienna), could have foreseen the difficulties to be overcome in the production of this work.

The method itself is quite simple, but the interpretation of the pictures is anything but that. The atlas, therefore, is of the utmost importance as a teaching medium, facilitating, as it does, a thorough study of the picture obtained from the gastroscope. In addition to that the Atlas also contains pictures taken when the instrument was introduced into the pylorus, i.e. the lower part of the stomach, forming the link to the intestines.

In order to create an extraordinary book such as this Atlas, several unusual factors had to be successfully coordinated: the clinical experience of the author, the art of the painter Lepier, the technological know-how of the printer and the forbearance of the publisher.

(Continued)

Every one of the 320 pictures required collaboration between the author and the artist for weeks. Every single picture is a most minute miniature, which stresses whatever is didactically valuable much better than any color photography could. (Production difficulties were aggravated by difficult times. Copper and tin plates could not be obtained in Austria right after the war; the author had to bring them in personally from Switzerland. Even later on, it was not easy to procure the needed raw materials. The required tin and colors had to be sought after all over Europe. In order to render the finest nuances, the printing could be done in daylight only. As a result, the prints turned out incomparably better than the originals had been.)

A GOVERNMENT STUDY OF VIOLENCE IN MOVIES

Following the Chancellor's initiative, the Austrian Cabinet has decided to form a commission to investigate to what extent sex and violence in low-grade movies have a harmful influence on young people and how such films could be banned. The ministers of education, interior, justice and trade are participating in the commission.

FILM INDUSTRY THRIVING DESPITE IMPACT OF TV ON FOREIGN MARKETS

Austria being a nation of 7 millions, the Austrian movie output has to be oriented toward the whole German speaking area. From 24 to 25 films are shot yearly. The West German distributor guarantees, on the basis of the script presented

and the appeal of the stars engaged, 70% of the production costs to the Austrian producer. The remaining 30% have to be covered by box office returns from other foreign countries, particularly Switzerland, and by the domestic market.

Preliminary financing is carried out by the Austrian export promotion fund. This fund has covered bills amounting to 72 million schillings, out of a total of 92 million schillings presented in 1957. (26 schillings equal one dollar; Ed.). Accordingly, production costs in 1957 were close to 130 million schillings.

One American movie is currently being shot in the Rosenhuegel studio in Vienna. The production of 6 Austrian films in May and June will go on simultaneously. The Wien-Film corporation, Austria's biggest, employs approximately 600 employees in its two Vienna studios (Sievering and Rosenhuegel) and at Salzburg-Parsch.

The limited Austrian market is under considerable pressure. Over 400 films a year are imported to Austria: over a hundred from Germany and a large number from the USA, France and Italy.

Today there are 1,247 movie theaters in the country. The flood of imports considerably decreases box office returns from Austrian productions. The impact of competition by television, on the other hand, is mainly felt on foreign markets; for instance, there has been a 20% decrease in movie goers in West Germany. There has as yet been no comparable development in Austria.

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